

REPORT OF THE DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE

In the fall of 2003, a small group of townspeople came together to form the Downtown Revitalization Committee (DRC). This appointed Committee, included a representative from the Planning Board and the Board of Selectmen and became a sub-committee of the Board of Selectmen charged with choosing a project in the Village that would benefit townspeople of all ages and interests. With that directive in mind the DRC chose the former railroad yard behind the Town Hall to establish a multi-generational multi-use park.

With the townspeople support of a Warrant Article in 2004 the DRC was off to a solid start with plans for the newly established Alton B & M Railroad Park. The \$5,000 enabled the Committee to create a colorful brochure, hire a historic architect and provide matching funds for potential grants. During these past seven years additional monies were raised through grants, donations and numerous fund raising projects.

In mid-summer 2008 seven beautiful Dutch disease free Elm trees were planted at the Park, including one famous Liberty Elm tree that was donated by the Elm Institute in Keene, NH. These trees will someday provide needed shady areas in the Park.

In the Spring of 2009 a newly designed patio was constructed of poured concrete, featuring the B & M Railroad Logo. This patio area will provide a gathering center for concerts and social events. A platform on the south end of the Freight building will provide a stage area for a variety of activities.

Since its inception numerous projects have been completed by committee members and volunteers which will add to the enjoyment of the Park including, completed walking paths, the toddler playground with a fenced in sandbox with toys, two horseshoe pits, and the Boardwalk features three new nature signs providing information and sketches of wildlife, flowers and fauna in the wet land and surrounding area.

Twenty-six beautiful Veteran Memorial plaques, surrounding the base of the American Legion-Post No. 72 flag pole, were dedicated during Memorial Day ceremonies on May 25, 2009.

A special addition arrived at the Park on April 26, 2009. Months of preparation preceded the arrival of the historic c: 1800 Loon Cove Station. This station was part of the well known Lake Shore Railroad Line that traversed along the west side of Alton Bay to Lakeport.

It took many hands to co-ordinate this historic move from Route 11 to the Village Park, the Alton Historical Society, loyal volunteers, Highway Department, Town Hall staff and Transfer Station employees. It was a successful move. We express our thank you to the former owners, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Moore, II who donated the Loon Cove Station to the Town.

The DRC wishes to thank the patrons, organizations and many volunteers for making the Park possible for all to enjoy. Come visit the Park and see the many changes that have been taking place.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Fry, Chairman

Nancy Merrill, Secretary

Bonnie Barsanti, Recorder

Deanna O'Shaughnessy, Member

Norman Crawford, Member

Peter Bolster, Selectmen's Representative

Thomas Hoopes, Planning Board Representative